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this, I some years ago gave my whole collection of MSS. to the Rev. A. B. Rowan, of Belmont, near Tralee, hoping that he might do something for the history of Kerry. Among these MSS. is Sir R. C. Hoare's communication to me, of which I have no copy, and can only refer you to Mr. Rowan, if he is not the friend from whom you derive your information. I should suppose that I may have written to the baronet in 1831: I was in London that spring, and spent a good deal of my time searching the MSS. at the British Museum for Kerry history, and I am inclined to think it was then I applied to Sir R. C. Hoare for his opinion respecting it [the inscription]. When I first saw it, it was obscured by moss, &c., &c., and *very hard work* I had to scrub off the accumulated incrustations. My idea is, that the inscription refers to the person who made that evident addition to the abbey. I have not since been at Ardfert; and remain, Sir, your obedient servant,

RICHARD SAINTHILL.

Richard Hitchcock, Esq.

I have since received another valuable letter from Mr. Sainthill, full of curious information respecting Ardfert abbey, and other similar matters; but I regret that this is not the place to introduce the letter, or I would willingly add it here. I regret this the more, from the writer's having assured me that I am "heartily welcome" to make any use I please of his letters to me.

DINGLE IN THE SIXTEENTH CENTURY.

WITH AN INTRODUCTION AND NOTES.

BY RICHARD HITCHCOCK.

THE town of Dingle, in the county of Kerry, was at one time a place of considerable importance, and, although now comparatively poor, it yet exhibits many remains of its former greatness. It is the most westerly town in Ireland, beautifully situate on the northern coast of the bay of the same name, an inlet from which forms the harbour, and may be called the capital of the extensive peninsula which comprises the entire barony of Corkaguiny—one of the richest and most interesting districts in Ireland to the antiquary and the lover of wild scenery. The town occupies a hilly slope, and is surrounded by mountains on all sides except that towards the harbour, which here presents the appearance of a lake, the outlet being concealed by a projecting headland. The streets are irregularly disposed, but as there are more than the usual proportion of respectable slated houses, with gardens attached, the town has, from a short distance, a very pleasing appearance.

This district is generally supposed to have been colonized by the Spaniards, who formerly carried on an extensive fishery off the coast, and traded with the inhabitants, who still retain strong indications of their Spanish origin. Smith, writing about a century ago, informs us that "several of the houses were built in the *Spanish* fashion, with

ranges of stone balcony windows, this place being formerly much frequented by ships of that nation, who traded with the inhabitants, and came to fish on this coast; most of them are of stone, with marble door, and window frames: on one is an inscription, signifying, that the house was built by one RICE, *anno* 1563; and on a stone beneath two roses, are carved these words, AT THE ROSE IS THE BEST WINE. Many of them have dates on them as old as *Q. Elizabeth's* time, and some earlier."—*Antient and Present State of the County of Kerry*, pp. 176-7. Few or none of these dates and inscriptions are now visible, being most probably altogether destroyed, or covered over with plaster; but many of the quaint old houses still exist. Smith further informs us (pp. 192-3) that several Spanish merchants *resided* at Dingle, before queen Elizabeth's time, and that they traded with the natives for fish and other kinds of provision, as appears by a tract written by John Dee, entitled "The British Monarchy," in 1576. Smith gives a curious account of such commodities as might then be purchased in Kerry, and such as were usually transported to Spain from the port of Dingle. A comparison of the prices of these with the prices of the same articles at the present day would form a rather curious result.

According to Dr. O'Donovan's edition of the *Annals of the Four Masters* (A.D. 1579, vol. v. p. 1714, *n. z.*), Dingle was formerly called Daingean-Ui-Chuis, i. e. the fortress or fastness of O'Cuis, the ancient Irish proprietor of the place before the English invasion, not of the Husseys, as asserted by Dr. Smith and others. It is probably from this name that the modern term "Dingle-i-couch"¹ is derived. Subsequently, it appears that a castle was built in Dingle by the Hussey family, to whom one of the earls of Desmond had granted a considerable tract of land in the vicinity. On the rebellion and consequent forfeitures of the Desmond family and its adherents, the castle was, with divers lands, granted to the earl of Ormonde, from whom it was purchased by Fitzgerald, knight of Kerry, who also had a castle in this town. No traces of these castles now exist, if we except some of the hewn stones belonging to them built into the modern houses about the town. Queen Elizabeth, in the 28th year of her reign (1585), signed a warrant for the grant of a charter of incorporation to the inhabitants of the town, with privileges similar to the borough of Drogheda, and with a superiority over the harbours of Ventry, Smerwick, and Ferriter's creek; and she gave the inhabitants £300 to wall the place. The charter, however, was not actually granted until the 4th of James I. This charter, which is the only one known, was granted to the "sove-

¹ I believe that the origin of the first part of the name "Dingle-i-couch" may with equal probability be found in the simple meaning of the English word "dingle"—a hollow between two hills, which is partly the situation of the town. In the old

account of Dingle, which follows this introduction, we find the name spelled "Dingenacush"—an evident modification of the Irish name Daingean-Ui-Chuis, above given. The present Irish name of Dingle is simply *Daingean*.

reign, burgesses, and commonalty," from which it would appear that the corporation was then in existence, probably under the authority of the warrant of Elizabeth. The town, however, under the name of Dingle-i-couch, is found among those that sent members to parliament in the 27th of Elizabeth (1584). The borough sent two representatives to the Irish parliament until the Union, when it was disfranchised, and the entire compensation of £15,000 paid to Richard Boyle Townshend, Esq., several other claims having been disallowed. Traces of the town walls, which appear to have been very thick, may still be seen, particularly near The Grove, at the north side of the town. They seem to have been built with clay mortar, which is still visible.

There was formerly an ancient monastery in Dingle, which was a cell to the abbey of Killagh,¹ near Castlemaine. The old church, which was dedicated to St. James, is said to have been built by the Spaniards: it was originally a very large structure. A part of it, called St. Mary's chapel, was kept in repair until the erection of the present parish church, on the site of the ancient edifice, in 1807. In the church-yard are several ancient inscriptions, amongst which is one to the Fitzgerald family, in Gothic characters, bearing the date 1504. The Roman Catholic chapel of Dingle is a handsome and spacious modern edifice. Adjoining is a convent for nuns of the Presentation order, established here in 1829.

A residence of nearly three years in Dingle and several visits since made to the town and surrounding country enable me to write pretty accurately of both; and I hope it will not be considered a foible in me, if I inform my readers, that some of the happiest days of my life have been passed in the remote town and neighbourhood of Dingle. No wonder, then, that I should like to write of the place.

The country around Dingle, as before stated, is full of deep interest to the antiquary and the lover of the beauties of nature. To the former, because on this coast had the first landing been effected by the great Milesian expedition from Spain, some centuries before our era; and from this quarter had that civilized colony diffused itself throughout the island. The historical fact of the expedition landing on this western barony of Kerry is amply verified by a multiplicity of remains bearing uncommon marks of the remotest antiquity.² Almost at every step do we meet the Pagan cemetery, the open fire

¹ See Archdall's *Monasticon*, p. 304.

² I am aware that Keating and others after him place this landing at *Inbher Sceine*, supposed to be the present Kenmare river; but I believe this is now one of the doubtful points in Irish history. Indeed, Smith, writing nearly a century ago, mentions, on the authority of Ptolemy, two other places in Kerry, either of which is quite as likely to have been the scene of the Milesian landing as the river of Kenmare.

These are, the bays of Tralee and Castlemaine, between which, it is worth remarking, the peninsula of Corkaguiny shoots out into the Atlantic, indented by the deep inlets of Brandon and Smerwick on the one side, and by those of Dingle and Ventry on the other, besides several smaller ones. The following letter, from my collection, just occurs to me, as bearing a little on this point, and I gladly introduce it here. It is from the pen of a gentleman and Irish

altar, the bending cromleac, and the Ogham pillar with puzzling inscriptions, in age and mystery perhaps emulating the undefined relics at Persepolis. Here, indeed, would the antiquary be tempted to designate this western "tongue of land" as the Baal-bec of Ireland, if not of western Europe. I sometime since amused myself by making out, from the Ordnance Survey maps, and other sources of my own, a tabular list of the principal remains of antiquity in the barony of Corkaguiny, and I found them to be as follows:—eleven stone cahers;¹ three cairns; forty calluraghs, or obsolete burial-grounds, where *unbaptized* children only are interred; ten castles; eighteen artificial caves; twenty-one churches in ruins, and nine church sites; two hundred and eighteen cloghauns, or bee-hive-shaped stone houses; sixteen cromleacs; twelve large stone crosses; three hundred and seventy-six earthen forts, or raths; one hundred and thirteen gallauns, or immense rude standing stones; fifty-four monumental pillars, most of them bearing Ogham inscriptions; fifteen oratories; nine peni-

scholar, well versed in the history and antiquities of Kerry, the Rev. John Casey, of Killarney, and was written in October, 1849:—

"In answer to Mr. Hitchcock's question, I can aver, that the ivory antique was found at *Amhann na Feinne*, the river falling into the sea hard by captain Fitzgerald's, at Muriragane, or Brandon Lodge, whose ancestors for many generations were proprietors of this and the surrounding district, and very probably a member of the same family was the owner of the antique.

"Very convenient to this spot is *Uí Dhuinn*, where the leader of the Milesian expedition was cast ashore, who gave name to that [Corkaguiny] and the two next baronies, and of course the three oldest named baronies in Ireland. This Tig-Dhuinn of antient Irish history is at present called Ballyduinn. Contiguous thereto a grave-yard was discovered a few years back, covered, as I was informed, by the spring tides; would recommend Mr. Hitchcock to visit the locality at his next convenient opportunity, as I could give him further information, not alone of this but of other places skirting along Brandon Hill all the way to Tralee.

"JOHN CASEY."

The Ballyduinn mentioned above, or, as it is spelled on the Ordnance Survey map, Ballyguin, is the name of a townland and village situate at the head of Brandon bay—a spot well adapted for the landing of the Milesian expedition. Shortly after receiving the above letter, I made inquiry concerning the grave-yard, of an intelligent coast-guard then stationed in the immediate

vicinity, but since dead, and he wrote to me as follows:—

"Brandon, 22nd Nov. 1849.

"DEAR SIR—In reply to your favour of the 15th ultimo, relative to the discovery of a grave-yard near this place, I beg to say, that there is *such* on the strand near Brandon-quay, between two sand-banks. The spring tides often cover a part of it, and the strong gales of wind blow the sand over it. There is now nothing to be seen but a few stones stuck up here and there. I often inspected the said place, but could find nothing remarkable or worth noticing; being informed that a priest by the name of Harrington, some twenty-eight years ago, found human skulls and bones of the largest description, and fragments of coffins, &c.

"I should have answered your inquiries before, but, being ill this some time, was unable to do so.

"I remain, dear Sir,

"Yours truly,

"J. DANIELL."

I regret to state, that I have not since had an opportunity of visiting the grave-yard, so invitingly mentioned by Mr. Casey, and described by Mr. Daniell; but I trust that I may be able sometime to examine the place. It is not marked on the Ordnance Survey map.

¹ Cahercullaun, about four miles to the north of Dingle, is one of these, and tradition says that it occupies the site originally intended for that town. Lady Chatterton gives an interesting description of Cahercullaun in her *Rambles in the South of Ireland*, vol. i. pp. 173-5.

tential stations; sixty-six wells, many of them bearing the name of some saint; and twenty-nine miscellaneous remains. This list, of course, only applies to such antiquities as have had some remains of them existing about five years ago, when I compiled the list; but I earnestly hope that none, or at least but very few of them have been since destroyed. How many more fine remains have been lost during centuries of blind fanaticism and internal warfare! Such as the list is, I venture to say that no other part of Ireland, of the same size as Corkaguiny, can number so many and such a variety of ancient remains, and in such a fine state of preservation, as are to be found in that interesting barony. Since making out the above list, I have found in lady Chatterton's very interesting *Rambles in the South of Ireland*, second edition, vol. i. p. 189, an engraving of a cromleac on Ballyferriter hill, which may probably be added to the number already mentioned; but I regret to say that this cromleac, or, as lady Chatterton calls it, "sun altar," does not now exist, the stones which composed it having been broken and carried away for building purposes, as if there were no others in the neighbourhood! It is, however, fortunate that we have even a small engraving of the monument preserved to us. I may also take this opportunity of stating, that I have made no mention, in the above list, of the "stone circles," so numerous in Corkaguiny. They are to be found in all parts of the barony, and no doubt are of very remote antiquity. That this district was anciently remarkable for cultivation, fertility, and piety, is, I think, sufficiently proved by the numerous remains of churches and other vestiges of civilization which still remain there. Dr. Smith, in his "Antient and Present State of the County of Kerry," published nearly a hundred years ago, enumerates no fewer than twenty parish churches in Corkaguiny (p. 172); and it has been seen above, that the remains of many more than this number of churches still exist there. Smith seems to conclude from this fact, that the barony of Corkaguiny was formerly better inhabited than at present,¹ each parish having had its respective church, most of which were very large, as appears by their ruins. Another proof to which he refers of the barony having been formerly better peopled than at present, is the fact, that several of the mountains, though of but poor and stony soil, are marked by old enclosures and other signs of former culture on their sides even to the very tops.

By the lover of wild and romantic scenery, as well as by the invalid, Dingle and the country around will be found equal to, if not surpassing any other place in Ireland, in peculiar attractions and salubrity. To be sure (I suppose because of its remoteness and the primitive simplicity of its inhabitants), Dingle has not yet been honoured

¹ There is no doubt of this fact. The histories of the Desmond wars in the end of the sixteenth century, from 1578 to 1580, attest the flourishing state of the district

(the fertile barony, as its name signifies it to have been) at the commencement of these wars, and its desolate condition when they were ended.

with visits from many of those tourists, who might write laudatory books on it, such as have been written on Killarney, Wicklow, and some other places in Ireland; but let persons of delicate constitution, or with mind and heart alive to all that is lovely in nature, reside but one short summer or autumn in Dingle, and I am bold to say, that they will leave the place with both mind and body in healthier and happier condition than when the party first arrived in Dingle, and with a feeling towards the people of that town and district which can never be effaced from the memory. To use the words of a distinguished geologist who visited this part of Kerry some years ago, after speaking of "the variety and beauty of the wild flowers" which adorn the sides of the mountains there, he proceeds:—"But if the lovers of the picturesque beauties of nature knew but half the glorious scenery that is to be found among them [the mountains], this extreme point of western Europe would be more frequently visited and acknowledged as equal to any of the favourite haunts of tourists. If we walk along the shores we see mural precipices of eight hundred feet in height, opposed as barriers to the vast Atlantic, whose waters, in their calmest mood, break against the rocks with a violence which conveys an idea of the power and strength of the ocean, hardly appreciable by those who are acquainted only with the channel seas. If we ascend the mountains we are charmed with the wildness of their rocky defiles, the richness of their flowery vegetation, exceeding anything I have elsewhere seen, and the depth at which the lakes are embosomed in the midst of them. The precipices over Connor lake rise to about fifteen hundred feet above its surface; from the summit¹ a panorama is exhibited, of which I know no equal. To the north, the broad mouth of the Shannon, flanked by Kerry and Loop heads, and the distant peaks of the Bunabola or Cunnemara mountains; to the west, the spacious Atlantic with the Blasket islands, thrown out as it were a breakwater against the violence of its surges; to the south, the tumultuous mass of the Iveragh mountains from the serrated Reeks to the island of Valentia, and in the far distance Hungry-hill, and the southern headlands of Cork and Kerry."² Another writer says:—"From Connor Hill, to the north-east of Dingle, on the road to Castle-Gregory, a splendid view, embracing both sides of the peninsula, is obtained. On one side is seen the bay of Dingle, as far as the island of Valentia, with the great Skellig rock in the distance, and the town and harbour of Dingle lying immediately beneath; and on the other side, Brandon bay and several bold headlands. On each side are mountains, with wide and deep valleys intervening, and numerous tarns or small lakes lying in the hollows of the hills."

But, in my zeal for the antiquities and natural scenery of Cork-aguiny, as they now present themselves, I must not depart too far

¹ I suppose of Brandon Hill.

² Charles William Hamilton, Esq., in the

first volume of the *Journal of the Geological Society of Dublin*, p. 277.

from the heading which introduces this article. I could willingly linger amid these subjects, but time and space forbid me.

I feel, however, that, after the hurried and I fear imperfect sketch of ancient and modern Dingle which I have attempted to give, it is now time to introduce what I consider to be a very curious account of the town, its inhabitants, and customs, as they existed three centuries ago, and which I trust will not be without its interest for many of the readers of our Transactions. The account is taken from "the voiage of the right honorable *George Erle of Cumberland* to the *Azores*,¹ &c. Written by the excellent Mathematician and Enginier master *Edward Wright*"—as given in "the Second Volvme of the Principal Navigations, Voyages, Traffiques and Discoueries of the *English Nation*, made by Sea or ouer-land, to the South and South-east parts of the World, at any time within the compasse of these 1600. yeres. By Richard Hacklvyt, Preacher, and sometime Student of Christ-Church in Oxford." Part ii. pp. 165-6; folio: London, 1599. Hakluyt's collections for the history of British voyages and discoveries are now much valued, both for their antiquity, scientific accuracy, and rarity; and we even have a "Hakluyt Society," instituted on the 15th of December, 1846, for the purpose of printing the most rare and valuable of these collections.² With the view of rendering the following extract the more acceptable, I have here and there added a brief illustrative note.

"The first of December at night we spake with another *English* ship, and had some beere out of her, but not sufficient to carry vs into *England*, so that wee were constrained to put into *Ireland*, the winde so seruing.

"The next day we came to an anker, not far from the *S. Kelmess* vnder the land & winde, where we were somewhat more quiet, but (that being no safe harbour to ride in) the next morning wee went about to weigh anker, but hauing some of our men hurt at the *Capstern*, wee were faine to giue ouer and leaue it behinde, holding on our course to *Ventre hauen*,³ where wee safely arriued the same day, that

¹ The Azores, or Western Islands, are a group of islands in the Atlantic, between 25° and 30° W. long. and 37° and 40° N. lat., 900 miles west of Portugal. They are nine in number, and are seen at a great distance, one of them having a very high mountain, called the Pico, or the Peak of the Azores.

² The account of the earl of Cumberland's voyage, taken from Hakluyt, is also given in the first volume of Pinkerton's *General Collection of Voyages and Travels in all Parts of the World*, pp. 804-19 (4to. Lond. 1808); but, not to speak of one or two verbal differences, I prefer Hakluyt's old spelling and black-letter text. This is here printed in Roman type, and Hakluyt's

Roman words are here in *italics*, to distinguish them. The earl of Cumberland's voyage to the Azores took place in the year 1589.

³ This harbour is exposed to the S.W. winds, but on all other sides it is sheltered by lofty mountains. The strand (in Irish *ṡionn tṡrāṡe*), being remarkable for its fine white sand, has given name to the parish of Ventry, and is justly considered to be one of the finest strands in Ireland. It is further celebrated as being the scene of the romantic story, entitled *ḄatḄ ṡionn tṡrāṡe*, i.e. the Battle of Ventry, a correct version of the account of which, from a vellum MS. of the fourteenth century, in the Bodleian Library, Oxford, I am glad to learn, is now

place being a very safe and conuenient harbor for vs, that now wee might sing as we had iust cause, *They that goe downe to the Sea,*¹ &c.

“So soone as we had ankered here my Lord went forthwith to shoare, and brought presently fresh water and fresh victuals, as Muttons, pigges, hennes, &c. to refresh his company withall. Notwithstanding himselfe had lately bene very weake, and tasted of the same extremitie that his Company did: For in the time of our former want, hauing a little fresh water left him remaining in a pot, in the night it was broken, and the water drunke and dried vp. Soone after the sicke and wounded men were carried to the next principall Towne, called *Dingenacush*, being about three miles distant from the foressaide hauen, where our shippe roade, to the Eastwards, that there they might be the better refreshed, and had the Chirurgians dayly to attend vpon them. Here we wel refreshed our selues whilst the *Irish* harpe sounded sweetely in our eares,² and here we, who for the former extremities were in maner halfe dead, had our liues (as it were) restored vnto vs againe.

“This *Dingenacush* is the chiefe Towne in al that part of *Ireland*, it cōsisteth but of one maine streete, from whence some smaller doe proceede on either side.³ It hath had gates (as it seemeth) in times past at either ende to open and shut as a Towne of warre, and a Castle also. The houses are very strongly built with thicke stone walles, and narrow windowes like vnto Castles: for as they confessed, in time of trouble, by reason of the wilde *Irish* or otherwise, they vsed their houses for their defence as Castles. The castle and all the houses in the Towne, saue foure, were won, burnt, and ruinated by the Erle of *Desmond*. These foure houses fortified themselves against him, and withstood him and all his power perforce, so as he could not winne them.

“There remaineth yet a thicke stone wall that passeth ouerthwart the midst of the streete which was a part of their fortification.⁴ Notwithstanding whilst they thus defended themselves, as some of them yet aliuie confessed, they were driuen to as great extremities as the *Iewes*, besieged by *Titus* the *Romane* Emperour, insomuch that they were constrained to eat dead mens carcasses for hunger. The Towne is nowe againe somewhat repaired, but in effect there remaine but the ruines of the former Towne. Commonly they haue no chimneis in their houses, excepting them of the better sort, so that the

announced for publication by the Ossianic Society. How beautiful to walk along this strand on a fine moonlight evening, when all around is stillness, broken only by the gentle ripple of the ever active waves on the sand! How sweet then to muse on the days gone by here! A pier has been lately built at the west side of the harbour by the Board of Fisheries, which will prove of great service to the poor fishermen and others in the neighbourhood.

¹ Psalm cvii. 23.

² This is exceedingly interesting, as showing how late the Irish harp was in use in this remote district.

³ After the lapse of nearly three hundred years, this is still the form of the town, and the principal street is now literally named the “Main-street.” This passage also shows the importance of ancient Dingle.

⁴ Remains of this wall are still (1853) to be seen, as before mentioned.

smoake was very troublesom to vs, while we continued there. Their fewell is turfes, which they haue very good, and whinnes or furies. There groweth little wood thereabouts, which maketh building chargeable there: as also want of lime (as they reported) which they are faine to fetch from farre, when they haue neede thereof.¹ But of stones there is store ynough, so that with them they commonly make their hedges to part ech mans ground from other; and the ground seemeth to be nothing else within but rockes and stones:² Yet it is very fruitfull and plentifull of grasse, and graine, as may appeare by the abundance of kine and cattel there:³ insomuch that we had good muttons (though somewhat lesse then ours in *England*) for two shillings or fiue groates a piece,⁴ good pigges and hennes for 3. pence a piece.

“The greatest want is industrious, painefull, and husbandly inhabitants to till and trimme the ground: for the common sort, if they can provide sufficient to serue from hand to mouth, take no further care.”⁵

“Of money (as it seemeth) there is very small store amongst them, which perhaps was the cause that made them double and triple the prizes of many things we bought of them, more then they were before our comming thither.

“Good land was here to be had for foure pence the Acre yeerely rent.⁶ There are Mines of Alome, Tinne, brasse, and yron.⁷ Stones

¹ There is no lime-stone in the barony of Corkaguiny. See a letter from the Rev. A. B. Rowan, D.D. (one of our members), in the fifth volume of the “Journal of the Geological Society of Dublin,” describing the curious geological phenomenon of immense lime-stone boulders occurring in the bed of a river at the eastern extremity of the barony. A similar geological curiosity, near Kenmare, is mentioned by Mr. Windele in his *Notices of Cork and its Vicinity*, pp. 334-5; ed. 1848.

² Verily, there are stones enough in Corkaguiny. I believe the entire of Connor Hill, at least of one side of it, is composed of immense layers of rock. The part where some of these overhang the new road is awfully grand. Above the beholder are mountains of rock, seeming as if about to fall and crush him to pieces; while beneath is a broad and steep valley, the bottom of which is studded with the fragments of rock already fallen, and lying round some small lakes. Of all the mountain scenery about Dingle, I know of no place to equal this and the top of Brandon Hill on a clear day.

³ I have seen wheat growing in spots in this barony, which, to look at them at another season of the year, one could

scarcely believe that they were so fertile; and yet the poor people are in great want of the common necessities of life.

⁴ The Blasket islands are celebrated for fattening sheep, and the flavour of the mutton they produce is excellent.

⁵ This is in a measure a mistake, at least as applied to the present inhabitants: for during a three years’ residence in Dingle, when I have had the best opportunities of becoming acquainted with the industrial habits of the people, I found them to be hardworking and industrious. I have seen men and women in Corkaguiny do work which is only fit for beasts of burden! and surely the reasonable being who can do this is not to be stigmatized for not being “industrious” and “painefull.” In any place where there is sad want of spirited and considerate landed proprietors, possessing some amount of capital, and where the men are, consequently, badly fed and badly used, there cannot be that natural desire for work and improvement of their several holdings, which under other circumstances will surely follow.

⁶ Very different are the rents now—from £2 to £5 being the average rent per acre.

⁷ There must be some exaggeration in the enumeration of these mines, as I have

wee sawe there as cleare as *Christall*, naturally squared like *Diamonds*.¹

“That part of the Countrey is all ful of great mountaines and hills, from whence came running downe the pleasant streames of sweete fresh running water. The naturall hardnesse of that Nation appeareth in this, that their small children runne vsually in the midst of Winter vp and downe the streetes bare-foote and bare-legged, with no other apparell (many times) saue onely a mantell to couer their nakednesse.

“The chiefe Officer of their Towne they call their Soueraigne, who hath the same office and authoritie among them that our Maiors haue with vs in *England*, and hath his Sergeants to attend vpon him, and beare the Mace before him as our Maiors.

“We were first intertained at the Soueraignes house, which was one of those 4. that withstood the Erle of *Desmond* in his rebellion. They haue the same forme of Common prayer word for word in Latin, that we haue here in *England*. Upon the Sunday the Soueraigne commeth into the Church with his Sergeant before him, and the Sheriffe and others of the Towne accompany him, and there they kneele downe euery man by himselfe priuately to make his prayers. After this they rise and go out of the Church againe to drinke, which being done, they returne againe into the Church, and then the Minister beginneth prayers.

“Their maner of baptizing differeth something from ours: part of the seruice belonging thereto is repeated in Latin, and part in *Irish*. The Minister taketh the child in his hands, and first dippeth it back-

never heard of such having ever existed in the barony of Corkaguiny. Smith, the historian of the county, makes no mention of them. Yet I may observe, in illustration of the reference to “yron,” that I have in my possession a Dingle tradesman’s token, bearing the following inscription:—TOBY . CREANE . DINGLE-COVCH . IRON . WORKE. See Dr. Aquilla Smith’s Supplement to his Catalogue of Tradesmen’s Tokens, No. 29, in the *Proceedings of the Royal Irish Academy*, vol. v. appendix vii.

¹ These “stones cleare as christall,” or, as they are now called, “Kerry stones” and “Kerry diamonds,” are to be found on the sides and tops of many of the Kerry mountains. Numerous are the joyous evenings which I have spent collecting them with my school-fellows in days now, alas! gone for ever! I have collected some large and very beautiful “Kerry diamonds” in the autumn of the year 1852, a selection from which I have presented to a lady friend in Dublin. I have also forwarded to our Honorary Secretary, the Rev. James Graves, a few specimens, which I hope are bright enough

to illustrate the statement above made in the text. The Kerry diamonds appear to have been formerly held in much repute as an article of dress, as we learn from an interesting letter in the first volume of that curious old publication, the *Anthologia Hibernica*, p. 125, where it is stated that Thomas, the first earl of Kerry, had a passion for wearing Kerry-stone buttons, of which he had several suits set in the brilliant way. See also Croker’s *Researches in the South of Ireland*, p. 323. The magnificent rock Kerry diamonds are principally obtained from the cliffs and caves of the western coast of the county and the Blasket islands. I have been informed that some of the coast-guards of the western stations here have sent away chests full of these rock diamonds to England. Several fine examples of the rock Kerry diamond were to be seen in the Great Irish Exhibition of 1853, and on the chimney-piece of the room in which I now write I have a small but not very good specimen of the rock diamond procured from the western part of the ancient “kingdom of Kerry.”

wards, and then forwards, ouer head and eares into the cold water in the midst of Winter, whereby also may appeare their naturall hardnesse, (as before was specified.) They had neither Bell, drum, nor trumpet, to call the Parishioners together, but they expect till their Soueraigne come, and then they that haue any deuotion follow him.

"They make their bread all in cakes, and, for the tenth part, the bakers bake for all the towne.

"We had of them some 10. or 11. Tunnes of beere for the *Victory*,¹ but it proued like a present purgation to them that tooke it, so that we chose rather to drinke water then it.

"The 20. of December we loosed frō hence, hauing well prouided our selues of fresh water, and other things necessary, being accompanied with sir *Edw. Dennie*, his *Lady*, and two yong sonnes.

"This day in the morning my Lord going ashoare to dispatch away speedily some fresh water that remained for the *Victory*, the winde being very faire for vs, brought vs newes that there were 60. *Spanish* prizes taken and brought to *England*. For two or three dayes wee had a faire winde, but afterwards it scanted so, that (as I said before) we were faine to keepe a cold *Christmas* with The Bishop and his clearkes."²

The original family name of the earls of Cumberland was Ponce, until Walter, the second son of Richard Fitz-Ponce, having obtained Clifford Castle, in Herefordshire, with his wife Margaret, daughter of Ralph de Toney, assumed thence that surname. From this Walter, the earl who undertook the voyage to the Azores was descended, and of him Burke writes:—"Earl George was educated at the University of Cambridge, and attaching himself to the study of mathematics, imbibed so decided a passion for navigation, that he became soon afterwards eminent as a naval commander, having undertaken at his own expense several voyages for the public service; but *that*, and a passion for tournaments, horse-racing, and similar pursuits, made such inroads upon his fortune, that he was said to have wasted more of his estate than any one of his ancestors."—*Extinct and Dormant Peerages*, 3rd ed. 1846, p. 127.

[In illustration of the above very curious extract, Mr. Hitchcock sent the following remark from the letter of the gentleman who had directed his attention to it:—"It is singular that to this day—or, at least, fourteen years ago, for I have been out of Dingle so long—the bakers have still the custom, which I believe is peculiar to Dingle, of baking for a tenth part of the bread. Then the description of the 'Kerry stones,' the 'streams of water running down the streets,' and the price of fowl, might nearly stand for an account of matters as they now are. When I first went to Dingle, thirteen eggs were readily had for a penny."—Eds.]

¹ The name of the earl of Cumberland's ship.

² A cluster of rocks off the coast of Pembrokehire.